

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/803,082
Amendment filed November 23, 2005
Reply to OA dated August 24, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A switch for electric equipment comprising:
an operation button arranged at the operation panel side of electric equipment;
a plurality of switch bodies adapted to come into contact with the operation button when depressed at least at two positions located opposite relative to the center of the front press facet of the operation button;~~and,~~ the front press facet of the operation button being inclined relative to the plane of arrangement of the plurality of switch bodies;

a link member linking the operation button and the switch bodies;

a hinge; and

an elastic member linked to the link member by the hinge and urging the operation button in the direction opposite to the depressing direction of the operation button,

wherein the operation button is formed to show a cap-shaped profile having a plate-shaped part carrying the front press facet and a cylindrical part formed around the outer periphery of the plate-shaped part and engaged with the link member along the inner periphery thereof, and

the location of the hinge and the outer peripheral edge of the operation button substantially agree with each other as viewed in the direction of a normal line relative to the front press facet.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/803,082
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Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The switch according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the link member has a disk-shaped part arranged substantially in parallel with the plane of arrangement, an upper arm and a lower arm, standing up from the disk-shaped part, with a different heights and the upper arm is provided at the front end thereof with an aligning part for holding the corresponding end of the cylindrical part in position.

Claim 4 (Original): The switch according to claim 3, wherein a key button is arranged at the center of the front press facet of the operation button so as to retractably project and linked to the key switch body by a key linking part and the key linking part is provided with a through hole running through the upper arm.

Claim 5 (Original): The switch according to claim 4, wherein the upper arm has a long slender profile extending along a radial direction of the link member and the through hole is a long hole running along the upper arm.

Claim 6 (Original): The switch according to claim 4, wherein the switch bodies include a pair of switch bodies arranged oppositely relative to each other and another pair of switch bodies arranged oppositely relative to a line segment connecting the former pair of switch bodies and the

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/803,082
Amendment filed November 23, 2005
Reply to OA dated August 24, 2004

mid point of the latter pair of switch bodies is separated from the line segment.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A piece of electric equipment comprising:

a switch for electric equipment including:

an operation button arranged at the operation panel side of electric equipment;

a plurality of switch bodies adapted to come into contact with the operation button when depressed at least at two positions located opposite relative to the center of the front press facet of the operation button; ~~and,~~ the front press facet of the operation button being inclined relative to the plane of arrangement of the plurality of switch bodies;

a link member linking the operation button and the switch bodies;

a hinge; and

an elastic member linked to the link member by the hinge and urging the operation button in the direction opposite to the depressing direction of the operation button,

wherein the operation button is formed to show a cap-shaped profile having a plate-shaped part carrying the front press facet and a cylindrical part formed around the outer periphery of the plate-shaped part and engaged with the link member along the inner periphery thereof, and

the location of the hinge and the outer peripheral edge of the operation button substantially agree with each other as viewed in the direction of a normal line relative to the front press facet,

the electric equipment further comprising:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/803,082
Amendment filed November 23, 2005
Reply to OA dated August 24, 2004

an equipment main body having an operation panel carrying the switch for electric equipment.

Claim 8 (Original): The electric equipment according to claim 7, wherein the equipment main body is provided with a casing having an opening formed at the operation panel side so as to allow the operation button to be inserted and the operation panel is inclined relative to the support surface of the casing, the switch for electric equipment being fitted to the casing in such a way that the operation panel and the front press facet are arranged in parallel with each other.

Claim 9 (Canceled).